REMARKS

Claims 50-57 are pending in this application. Claim 50 has been amended. New claims 54-57 have been added. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 50-53 are provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 50-53 of copending U.S. Application Serial No. 10/246,450. Applicants note that claims 50-53 of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/246,450 have been canceled in an Amendment filed July 23, 2004 (copies of the as-filed Amendment and of the stamped postcard indicating the July 23, 2004 filing date of the Amendment are attached). Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 50-53 is respectfully requested.

Claims 50, 52 and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Saoudi (U.S. Patent No. 6,448,559). Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claimed invention relates to a "radiological imaging support method" according to which an X-ray source is moved in the longitudinal direction of the bed inside the γ-ray detecting section, when an X-ray is detected. Amended independent claim 50 recites a "radiological imaging support method" by *inter alia* "detecting a γ-ray emitted from a test object placed on a bed with a γ-ray detecting section placed around said bed and aligned in a longitudinal direction of said bed in a radiological imaging examination period." Claim 50 also recites "moving an X-ray source in said longitudinal direction of said bed inside said γ-ray detecting section, when an X-ray is detected." Claim 50 further recites "detecting an X-ray passing through said test object in the radiological imaging examination period for detecting the γ-ray."

Saoudi fails to disclose all limitations of claims 50, 52 and 53. Saoudi discloses a radiation detecting apparatus comprising a detector aggregation 10 having a first layer 12 for detecting an X-ray (or γ-ray of low energy) and a γ-ray of medium energy and a

second layer 14 for detecting a γ-ray of high energy. The first layer 12 of Saoudi comprises a thin CsI(TI) scintillator, and the second layer 14 of Saoudi comprises a pair of LSO/GSO scintillators. In Saoudi, a collimator 104 is placed inside the detector aggregation 10 which is arranged in a circumferential direction, and an X-ray source is provided. Thus, Saoudi does not disclose that an X-ray is moved in a longitudinal direction of a bed inside a γ-ray detecting section, when an X-ray is detected, much less "moving an X-ray source in said longitudinal direction of said bed inside said γ-ray detecting section, when an X-ray is detected," as recited in claim 50. For at least these reasons, Saoudi fails to anticipate the subject matter of claim 50. Claims 52 and 53 should be allowable along with claim 50 and for other reasons.

Claim 51 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Saoudi. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. As noted, Saoudi does not disclose, teach or suggest all limitations of amended independent claim 50. For at least this reason, the Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 51 is also respectfully requested.

Applicants also submit that Saoudi does not disclose, teach or suggest the subject matter of newly added claims 54-57.

In view of the above, allowance of the application is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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